

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were previously pending in the present application. Claims 2 and 12 are hereby cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 9, 11 and 13 are hereby amended. Claims 1, 2-11 and 13-21 remain pending as amended. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the aforesaid amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected as being anticipated by Jeske *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,684,439). Claims 1 and 5-8 were rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of Jeske *et al.* and Henderson (U.S. Pat. No. 4,534,827). Claims 11, 14 and 15 were rejected as obvious of view Jeske *et al.* and Gomas (U.S. Pat. No. 6,134,994).

The Office indicates that claims 2-4, 12, 13 and 16-21 are deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

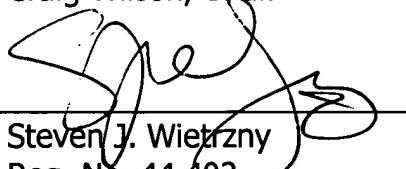
Independent claims 1 and 9 are hereby amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2, which is now cancelled. Claim 3 is hereby amended to depend directly from amended claim 1. Independent claim 11 is hereby amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 12, which is also now cancelled. Claim 13 is hereby amended to depend directly from amended claim 11. Claims 3-8 depend from amended claim 1, claim 10 depends from amended claim 9 and claims 13-21 depend from amended claim 11. Thus, all pending claims 1, 3-11 and 13-21 should now be in allowable form. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Enclosed herewith is a time extension petition requesting a 1-month extension of the response deadline, and authorizing payment of the associated fee to be charged to Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

No other fees are believed necessary for consideration of this response, however, any additional fees deemed necessary should be charged to this deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:


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